CLAIMS

19. (currently amended) A receiver for a broadband communication system comprising:

a continuously operative ~~first signal processing means for demodulating and decoding~~ input stream operative to demodulate and decode a received narrow band index signal ~~to extract addressing information contained in said index signal~~;

~~a second signal processing means for demodulating and decoding~~ a second input stream selectively operative to demodulate and decode portions of a received broadband primary data signal; and

~~control means for~~ a controller in said first input stream operative to monitor said narrow band index signal and, upon detection of addressing information that matches a predetermined address associated with said receiver, to ~~selectively activating~~ enable said second ~~signal processing means based on addressing information in said index signal~~ input stream to capture and extract data associated with said addressing information from said broadband primary data signal, without tuning said second input stream to a different frequency.

20 (currently amended) The ~~communication system~~ receiver of claim 19 ~~wherein said receiver~~ further ~~includes~~ comprising an input buffer in said second input stream operative to temporarily ~~storing~~ store a portion of said received broadband primary data signal before demodulating and decoding portions of said received broadband primary data signal in response to said controller.

21. (new) The receiver of claim 20 wherein said controller accesses packet start time information in said received narrow band index signal, and enables said buffer via said packet start time information to capture said data.

22. (new) A ground-based receiver for a satellite communication system, comprising:

a first input stream operative to receive from a satellite, and demodulate and decode, a narrowband index data signal comprising only data packet header information including packet addresses, and to match addresses in said header information with a predetermined address unique to said receiver;

a second input stream operative to receive from a satellite, and buffer, demodulate and decode selective portions of, a broadband primary data signal comprising complete data packets addressed to a plurality of receivers; and

a controller in said first input stream operative to enable the second input stream to buffer a portion of said broadband primary data signal upon matching said receiver's unique address to a data packet address in said narrowband index signal.

23. (new) The receiver of claim 22 wherein said data packet header information in said narrowband index data signal additionally comprises packet start time information, and wherein said controller uses said packet start time to enable the second input stream to buffer said portion of said broadband primary data signal.

24. (new) The receiver of claim 23 wherein said data packet header information in said narrowband index data signal comprises 21 bits.

25. (new) The receiver of claim 24 wherein the first 13 bits of said data packet header information contains the address of a receiver and the next 8 bits contain the packet start time for the corresponding data packed in said broadband primary data signal.

26. (new) A method of receiving packet data addressed to a particular receiver, comprising:

receiving and continuously demodulating and decoding in a first receiver path a narrowband index signal comprising only data packet header information including target receiver addresses, and comparing said addresses to a predetermined address unique to said particular receiver;

intermittently receiving, buffering, demodulating and decoding in a second receiver path portions of a broadband primary data signal comprising complete data packets addressed to a plurality of receivers; and

in response to matching a target receiver address in said narrowband index signal with said predetermined address unique to said particular receiver, enabling said second receiver path to obtain a complete data packet corresponding to the matched target receiver address, without retuning said second receiver path.

27. (new) The method of claim 26 further comprising extracting packet start time information from said data packet header information in said narrowband index signal, and using said start time information to enable said second receiver path at a time effective to capture said complete data packet.

28. (new) A method of receiving data packets addressed to a particular receiver, comprising:

monitoring a narrowband broadcast signal containing only packet addresses and packet start times;

detecting a match between a packet address and a unique receiver address; and

after detecting said address match, using an associated start time to transiently receive a portion of a broadband broadcast signal containing complete data packets, for only a duration sufficient to capture the data packet having the matching packet address.